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The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #03588-84
20 June 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Fritz W. Ermarth, NIO/USSR-EE
David McManis, NIO/Warning

SUBJECT: Contingency Talking Points on your memo entitled "US-Soviet Tensions (dated 19 June 1984) For Meetings with Messieurs Shultz, Weinberger, and McFarlane

1. In the event that any of your interlocutors ask you about the memo, we suggest you respond as follows:

-- It was not my intent in sending you the memo to suggest there was any immediate danger of hostile Soviet action.

-- Our best judgment of that issue remains that expressed in our recent SNIE on "The Implications of Recent Soviet Military-Political Activities", namely that we do not believe the Soviet leadership either fears imminent conflict or is making preparations for an imminent move toward confrontation.

-- Rather, the purpose of my memo was to provide you with a recently prepared listing of Soviet-Warsaw Pact actions that appear to fall outside the realm of the ordinary.

-- When viewed against the background of Soviet verbal bellicosity against the US, these actions possibly acquire additional significance.

-- In light of this I wanted to let you know that I have directed the Intelligence Community to step up its analytical efforts on possible Soviet intentions between now and the end of the year.

-- More specifically, I have instructed my NIO for Warning to produce on a regular basis Strategic Warning Reports that will draw on the inputs of all my NIOs and that will attempt to identify emerging strategic trends of more than normal concern to us.

Fritz W. Ermarth

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David McManis

cc: D/SOVA
NIO/W

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